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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/016,441	12/11/2001	Todd P. Lukanc	039153-0451 (G1156)	5260

7590 09/29/2003

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EXAMINER

ROSASCO, STEPHEN D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1756

DATE MAILED: 09/29/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/016,441

Applicant(s)

LUKANC ET AL.

Examiner

Stephen Rosasco

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 June 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 11 December 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4. 6) ☐ Other:

Detailed Action

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: pages 1 and 5, US Patent Serial numbers are missing.

Appropriate correction is required.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Liebmann et al. (6,057,063).

The claimed invention is directed to a method of designing a phase shifting mask and the mask to be used to manufacture an integrated circuit. The applicant states that the patterned poly lines that are away from the active regions are usually laid out with similar design rules as that of the patterned poly lines on active regions. And as such there can be many transitions between the phase shifted patterning and binary patterning.

In the claimed method edges are identified of a first phase region of a phase shifting mask, the first phase region being located proximate a critical region and the identified edges not being edges of the first phase region adjacent to the critical region, and defining a boundary phase region along the identified edges of the first phase region.

Liebmann et al. (see also Figs. 3-6) teach a process for creating a dark field alternating phase shift mask, comprising the steps of: identifying features in the mask that require phase shifting;

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creating generic phase regions on opposite sides of the features that require phase shifting;

assigning phases to said generic phase regions utilizing a net coloring approach and based upon minimum space between features;

ensuring proper phase termination of all phase regions; and

preparing designed data levels for mask manufacturing by applying mask process specific overlaps and expansions.

Liebmann et al. also teach that generic phase regions may initially be formed by expanding, or projecting, edges of critical dimension features into polygons. This helps to ensure that every critical dimension feature has a phase region on either side of it. The "coloring", described below in greater detail, then creates the "phase transition" or phase change across the critical dimension features by assigning and creating regions of different phase on either side of the critical dimension feature.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to S. Rosasco whose telephone number is (703) 308-4402.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661. Fax (703) 872-9310 Before Finals; 872-9311 After Finals.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Rosasco', with a stylized, elongated flourish extending to the right.

S. Rosasco
Primary Examiner
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S. Rosasco
9/10/03